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GENERAL: With temperatures mostly below normals and minimal precipitation, wheat and pasture growth has been slow, according to the USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Dry soil conditions and cool soil temperatures held producers back from starting corn planting. Producer activities included preparations for spring fieldwork, fertilizer applications, and caring for livestock.

This release is based on reports and data from county extension educators, FSA county directors, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center.

WEATHER: Temperatures last week averaged from near normals in the Panhandle to four to six degrees below normals throughout the remainder of the State. Precipitation was very limited.

CROPS: Wheat condition declined this past week and rated 8 percent very poor, 18 poor, 42 fair,

31 good, and 1 excellent. Current soil moisture conditions are sharply below year ago levels in the Panhandle and southwest. As a result, less than one-third of the wheat acreage was rated in good to excellent condition statewide. This compares to a year ago when over half of the acreage rated good or excellent.

Oat planting increased to 39 percent complete as of Sunday which compares with 9 last year and 36 for the five-year average.

Sugarbeet planting was 10 percent complete in the Panhandle and Southwest Districts.

LIVESTOCK: Cattle and calves condition rated 1 percent very poor, 1 poor, 14 fair, 67 good, and 17 excellent. Calving across the State progressed to 79 percent with calf losses rated mostly average to below average.

Progress and Conditions: By District, Nebraska, as of April 7, 2002

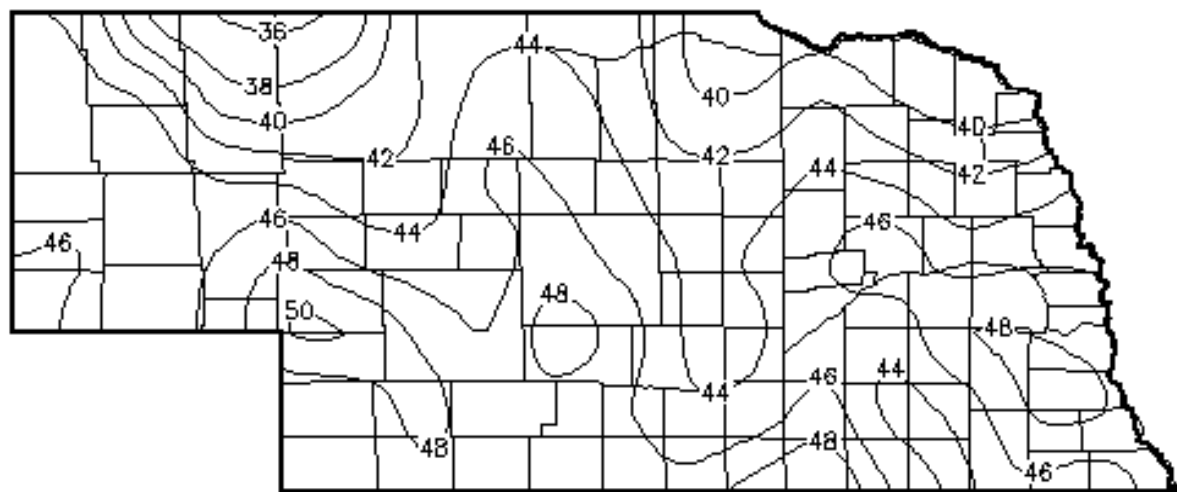
Item	Agricultural Statistics Districts								State	Last Week	Last Year	Average
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Oats Planted	31	16	24	30	46	67	72	71	39	15	9	36
Days Suitable for Fieldwork	6.8	5.8	4.7	7.0	6.6	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.3		1.6	
Topsoil Moisture - % Very short	43	10	1	60	15	67	44	7	29	21	2	
- % Short	27	17	34	30	48	27	37	46	30	30	12	
- % Adequate	30	73	65	10	36	6	19	47	41	48	80	
- % Surplus	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	6	
Subsoil Moisture - % Very Short	31	4	1	44	20	35	29	13	20	14	10	
- % Short	56	40	31	37	47	41	39	47	44	41	41	
- % Adequate	13	56	68	19	33	24	32	40	36	45	48	
- % Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	

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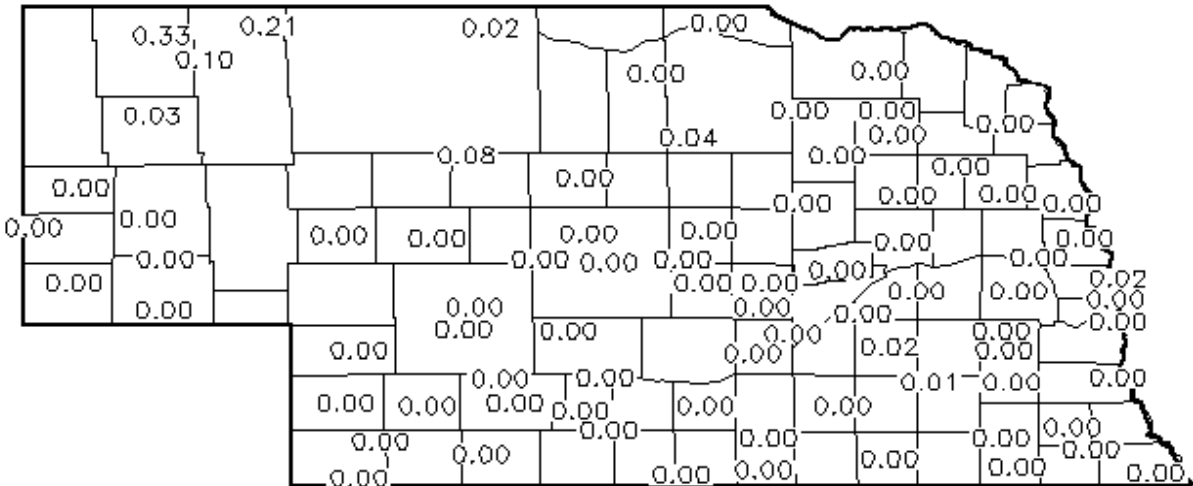
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Seven Day Average Temperature at the Four Inch Depth Under Bare Soil



Source: High Plains Regional Climate Centers Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN).

Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending April 7, 2002



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - April 7, 2002

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.06	.02	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Total since April 1	.06	.02	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Normal since April 1	.38	.47	.55	.53	.61	.41	.45	.61
Total as % of normal	16%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Saturday April 6, 2002

Station		Temperature			
		Extremes		Mean	Departure
		Max	Min		
NW	Chadron	81	9	39	-3
	Scottsbluff	77	12	41	-1
	Sidney	77	11	40	0
C	Valentine	69	5	36	-5
NE	Norfolk	70	16	40	-4
	Sioux City	67	15	38	-6
CEN	Grand Island	75	15	41	-4
	Ord	72	13	39	
EC	Lincoln	77	13	42	-4
	Omaha	73	19	41	-6
SW	Imperial	76	10	42	-2
	North Platte	74	11	39	-5

Source: National Weather Service, Valley, NE.